



ÉCOLE SEAFORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bienvenue! Welcome Back!

The Seaforth Parent Advisory Council welcomes you back for the new school year. On behalf of the PAC, we would also like to extend a warm welcome to those families new to Seaforth. Seaforth parents are unparalleled in their enthusiasm and participation and we look forward to working with you to make this a productive and exciting year for the Seaforth community.

We have attached some detailed information regarding the PAC events and committees, as well as a number of forms for you to fill out. Please complete the forms and return them to the school as soon as possible to ensure these programs can run smoothly. Thank you!

What is PAC?

Being the parent of a Seaforth student, you are automatically a member of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Your opinion is important to the school, and you are able to vote on issues affecting your child(ren) such as at the annual budget, fundraising activities, major expenditures and other issues discussed at the General PAC Meetings. Each June, interested parents are elected by their peers to serve on the PAC Executive Committee. This committee is a smaller group elected specifically to implement the ideas of the general parent population. Our function is to represent you and your child(ren) in the school community. We support community and classroom projects, assist in purchasing items not funded by the district or province, and help bring parental concerns and issues to the appropriate channels for resolution. We often send home PAC updates by email, in the school bulletin or as a paper notice sent home with your kids – you can always identify PAC correspondence by the paw-print letterhead. The PAC website, www.seaforthpac.net, features a variety of useful information such as the school calendar, reminders about upcoming events, PAC minutes, notices, etc. Relevant information is also posted on the PAC bulletin board, which is just inside the front entrance.

Your PAC Executive for 2012–2013

Chairperson – Rhylin Bailie – chair@seaforthpac.net

Vice Chairperson – MaryAnn Giardini

Secretary – Shannon Derksen

Treasurers – Hark Sandhu and Jennifer Duinkerke

DPAC Rep (District PAC) – Patricia Fula

CPF Rep (Canadian Parents for French) – ***Vacant***

Members at Large – Patricia Fula, Kristen Graham, Annie Hobson, Tammy Inglis, Zena Kwan, Michelle Lee, Sandra Mankoo, Cheryl Tong

Past Chair – Jen Mezei

School Planning Committee – Jen Mezei, Siva Ramesh, Michelle Lee

Executive Vacancies

We are hoping to appoint a Canadian Parents for French (CPF) rep at the first PAC Executive meeting on September 26. If you have a child in the French Immersion program and are interested in this position, please contact Rhylin Bailie as soon as possible.

General PAC Meetings

The PAC Meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7–9pm in the school library (we occasionally reschedule to accommodate playoff hockey – Go Canucks Go!). To give people a little more time to settle in, our first General PAC meeting for this school year is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 26**. The meeting agenda will be emailed to parents a week or so in advance. Babysitting and refreshments are provided. We hope to see you there! If you can't make a meeting, please feel free to send your comments and questions ahead of time to chair@seaforthpac.net.

Volunteers

All of the PAC and school events are coordinated by parent volunteers. Helping out at the school is an excellent way to meet the teachers and other parents and become more involved in your child(ren)'s education. A summary of PAC events and volunteer positions is attached. Please consider volunteering your time to help make the École Seaforth Elementary School community a success.

Hot Lunch

We have expanded the hot lunch program so that hot lunch will now be available almost every Tuesday. Parents pre-order from a variety of lunch items and then a small army of volunteers delivers the food directly to your child(ren)'s class. All of Seaforth's hot lunch items fully comply with British Columbia's Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools. Profits from the two main programs go directly to the PAC. Grade 7 Grad and the Grade 7 French Trip also organize a few hot lunches during the year. We try to make it very clear which group is organizing the hot lunch and what the funds will be used for when notices go home.

Fundraising Programs

As discussed and agreed every year at the June AGM, Seaforth does not participate in the typical sales-based fundraisers that most schools use (selling chocolates, poinsettias, etc). The majority of PAC funds are raised through the hot lunch programs and through one major social fundraiser, which alternates between Carnival and a social/silent auction. We also raise funds by selling popcorn every Friday at recess and with small family-focused events such as movie nights, educational presentations and even the occasional magic show!

The PAC also organizes a number of events from which funds go directly to the school, such as Family Photo Night (funds go to the school) and Book Fairs (funds go to the library).

Historically the PAC has funded significant capital expenditures (playground equipment, computers, Front Row Sound Systems, etc.) and has directed parent donations to the classrooms to be used by the teachers to support our children's education. At the June AGM it was agreed that parents prefer to donate to something tangible, where they can see their fundraising dollars at work. As a result, for 2012–2013 we have decided to try something different. The PAC has earmarked \$6,000 to be divided on a per capita basis among the classrooms (approximately \$12/student), and significant one-off capital expenditures will be funded from parent donations. This year's goal is to raise enough funds to replace the computers in the computer lab. Please see the Donation Request form for more information.

Community Events

Building on last year's focus on Kindness and Respect, we are hoping to host a number of events at the school this year that foster a sense of community. We need someone to take over the Movie Nights that we've had for the last few years, and we'd like to replace the Parent Social with a family-focused event. One person has suggested a Family Hoe Down! Check out our Volunteer Form for more information, and if you have any ideas for community events we'd love to hear about them! Please email chair@seaforthpac.net or speak directly with a member of the PAC Exec.

Parent Ideas

The best ideas that the PAC has are yours. Please feel free to drop suggestions or comments in the PAC suggestion Box in the foyer, or email chair@seaforthpac.net. We look forward to hearing from you.

We look forward to another great year for our children at Seaforth!

Yours truly,
Rhylin Bailie, PAC Chairperson
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